

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the fourth paragraph on page 9 of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

In addition to the gene encoding β -fructofuranosidase and an appropriate promoter active in a plant body, the gene construct which may be used in the present invention may contain, for example, an appropriate terminator (such as a nopaline synthase gene terminator or a CaMV35S~~CMV35S~~ terminator), an element useful for an expression regulation, and/or an appropriate marker gene for a transformant selection (for example, drug-resistant genes such as a kanamycin-resistant gene, a hygromycin-resistant gene, or a G418 resistant gene).

Please replace the bridging paragraph on page 10 and 11 of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

The procedure for constructing the gene construct which may be used in the present invention is not particularly limited, but it may be prepared, for example, by the following procedure. A cDNA of β -fructofuranosidase derived from *Aspergillus niger* is inserted into the BamHI site located downstream of the CaMV35S promoter in plasmid pBI121 (Clontech) to obtain a binary vector. If necessary, a β -glucuronidase gene may be removed. In the binary vector, the CaMV35S promoter is linked to the upstream side of the β -fructofuranosidase gene, and a nopaline~~heparin~~ synthase gene terminator derived from a Ti plasmid is linked to the downstream side of the β -fructofuranosidase gene. Therefore, the β -fructofuranosidase gene on the binary vector can be expressed in a plant. Further, the binary vector contains a kanamycin-

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resistant gene, and can give a kanamycin resistance to a plant or a microorganism such as Escherichia coli.

Please replace the fourth paragraph on page 22 of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

FREE TEXT IN SEQUENCE LISTING

Features of "Artificial Sequence" are described in the numeric identifier <223> in the Sequence Listing. More particularly, the nucleotide sequences of SEQ ID NOS: 2 to 6 are primer CaMV35S~~CAMV35S~~, primer nos-Ter, primer SPOA1S, primer FFaseRev, and primer SPOB1S2, respectively.